



# Ag in Action

**December -  
January**

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## From the Director's Desk

### In this Issue:

Arizona Mexico Commission	2
ESD Recertification and Training Course	3-4
Cattleman's meets with Gov	5
'Tis The Season to be Counted	6
SECC Fund Raising Update	7
Its Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas at ADA	8
Honoring Service to our State	9
New Hires	10



Greetings!

Another year has rolled by and the Holidays are upon us again. It is during this time that I want to personally thank you for all you have done to make the Department of Agriculture the success that it is and will continue to be. Through your efforts we have accomplished a lot. I couldn't be more proud.

It's been another year of belt tightening and possibly more is in store. As a team, we will work together and do what needs to be done for the citizens of Arizona. Our job isn't an easy one, and is often taken for granted. However; I know what it takes, and it takes great employees like you.

I want to express my personal thanks for a job well done and to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

## Arizona Mexico Commission

On November 14, 2007, a trio from Agriculture Consultation and Training (ACT) and other movers and shakers in Arizona Agriculture headed down to Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, Mexico for the Arizona-Mexico Commission. This commission is “Arizona’s premiere cross-border nonprofit organization” whose mission is to “improve the well-being and quality of life for residents of Arizona by promoting a strong, cooperative relationship with Mexico and Latin America through advocacy, trade, networking and information. While in Obregon, the Universidad de Tecnologia de Sonora (ITSON) hosted all meetings held by the Commission at their new, state of the art facilities. Representatives from Arizona State University, University of Arizona, the Agribusiness Council of Arizona, and other state agencies also attended this conference. From the Arizona Department of Agriculture, Stacie Archuleta, Brett Cameron, and intern Stephanie McDougall attended meetings regarding port city issues impacting trade (Canamex), agribusiness, health services, and the environment.



*Governors Eduardo Bours and Janet Napolitano*



*Chris Udall and Heidi Burnham from the Agribusiness Council of AZ. Stephanie McDougall, Stacie Archuleta and Brett Cameron from the AZ Dept. of Ag.*

In the Canamex meeting, the Sonoran government announced their plans to widen streets, add more commercial traffic lanes, increase military personnel, and add gamma ray devices that will scan all cargo trucks going out of Mexico. The agribusiness meeting addressed the growing impact of urbanization on the wild mule deer population, as well as improvements to Sonoran fisheries, the Yuma Ag Summit in 2008, and the implementation of electronic inspection devices for fruits.

The Health services meeting discussed the various health campaigns that the state of Arizona currently offers: colorectal cancer awareness and screening, smoking prevention, and diabetes screenings. Those who attended the environment meeting discussed climate control, and improving air quality by lowering the amount of greenhouse gases.

On Friday night, Sonoran Governor Bours hosted a fabulous dinner; complete with Obregon raised beef, shrimp with cilantro mousse, and a mango dessert accompanied by live entertainment. Even Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano hit the dance floor! The trip to Obregon was a great experience for everyone involved, and certainly accomplished an increase in bi-national communication and focus.



*One of ITSON's greetings to the Commission.*

## Annual ESD Recertification & Training Course

On November 26, 2007 and November 28-30, ADA Environmental Services Division (ESD) management and inspection staff, in cooperation with Jennifer Weber of the Agricultural Consultation & Training Division, held the Annual Recertification & Training Courses in Safford, Maricopa, Yuma, and Phoenix.

Specific Department of Agriculture certifications and licenses require the current applicator or license holder to obtain a specified number of Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) throughout the year in order to be eligible to renew their license without retesting. CEU's are normally obtained during the year by attending relevant, approved courses, workshops, and training sessions, held in different locations across the state. At the end of each year there are always a limited number of individuals currently holding certifications / licenses, that for one reason or another, have not obtained the minimum number of credits renewal. Since the required CEU credits must be obtained before December 31, ESD provides an Annual Recertification and Training Course as an end of the year opportunity to obtain six (6) CEU Credits by attending a full day of training comprised of two three (3) CEU Credit half-day sessions. ESD also provides a one hour session for applicators holding private on-farm fumigation certification. The following categories are eligible to attend these training sessions:

- **Pesticide Control Advisor (PCA)** - Requires a total of 15 CEU's per year for certification renewal.
- **Pesticide Commercial Applicator (PUC)** - Requires a total of 6 CEU's per year for certification renewal.
- **Pesticide Private Applicator (PUP)** - Requires a total of 3 CEU's per year for certification renewal.
- **Private Applicator Fumigation Certification** - Requires a total of 6 CEU's per year for certification renewal. One CEU must be specifically on fumigation.



### **Major subject areas covered during the training sessions:**

- Worker Protection Standard (WPS): Personal protective equipment, Central Posting location, Pesticide safety training, Decontamination supplies.
- Ground Water / Best Management Practices (BMP).
- Case reviews.
- ADA Top 10 Compliance issues / Top 10 Worker Protection and Safety issues.
- Recordkeeping requirements.
- Fumigation training.
- Professionalism
- Labels
- Miscellaneous pesticide educational training exercises.
- Question and answer session.



Course attendance this year ranged from an average of 23 participants during the morning sessions to about 20 in the afternoon sessions. Maricopa had the largest group in attendance with 36 people attending the morning session.





## 'Keepers of the Range'

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> cattle producers from around the state had the opportunity to meet with Governor Napolitano. Twenty members sat down with the Governor and her staff to discuss several pressing issues. The Arizona Cattleman's Association (ACA) leaders had outlined State Lands, trade with Mexico, and budget impacts on programs at the Arizona Department of Agriculture as priorities for this session.

State Land policy issues have always been a priority for the ACA, but it has been particularly high on the list because the Governor is meeting with several state legislators to run a reform package this session. One member discussed the ongoing situation with State Trust Lands and made it very clear that the Arizona Cattlemen's Association believes in a 3 part package. One package would deal with urban lands. A second package would deal with rural lands and grazing. The third package that would deal with governance. The ACA has always believed in the mission of the trust and there is no doubt we need some reform but it needs to be done in phases, not one inclusive package. The Governor felt that there were several areas that need to be addressed overall in one package: including funding for the State Land Department, solving issues of "rights of way", and classification of lands under the Arizona Preserve Initiative (API). The Governor agreed there should be a deadline for a purchase agreement on API lands.

Since the Canadian border opened back in November, Arizona beef producers are anxiously awaiting the opening of the Mexico border for United States beef cattle. Dr. Gary Thrasher explained to the Governor the economic impact of the border closing on Arizona ranchers. Governor Napolitano understood the implications and has promised to do everything in her power to open the Mexico border.

Last but not least, the ACA discussed it's concern with the state budget. The most recent numbers show a \$1.5 billion short fall. Members stressed to the Governor the importance of the Department of Agriculture and Livestock Inspectors. ACA also pointed out that they did not want funds taken from the Livestock and Crop Conservation Fund under the Growing Smarter Act. However, the Governor did not have good news on the budget and made it clear that ACA's government relations workers would have to work hard to educate those that are putting together the budget.

Overall the meeting was a success. It is always helpful for cattlemen to express their concerns, because they are the ones that face these issues everyday. The ACA followed the meeting up with a thank you note and sent her a copy of *"Keeper's of the Range."*



## 'Tis the Season to be Counted

### Arizona Farmers Give the Gift that Keeps Giving By Participating in 2007 Census

Phoenix, Arizona – The end of December is typically marked by crowds of people returning holiday gifts that don't fit or won't work, but this year farmers across the country and in Arizona can give themselves a gift that won't be returned and will keep on giving even after the holiday season – a voice for their industry and their community.

By filling out the 2007 Census of Agriculture farmers are investing in the future of rural America. Their responses will provide law makers, government organizations, town planners and individual farm operations with valuable information used to plan for services, facilities and other investments to benefit the industry and local communities.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census covers virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture, providing a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them.

"The Census can provide valuable information for Arizona agriculture," said Steven Manheimer, director of the NASS Arizona Field Office. "How has the housing growth in Maricopa, Pinal, Pima and Yuma counties affected agriculture? Is the growth of the Arizona dairy industry continuing? Are hay, silage and forage crops still increasing in acreage? Is Arizona agricultural sales still dominated by large family farms? These are just a few of the questions that Census information provides, adds Manheimer. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics across the country and in Arizona, right down to the county level. NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online.

"Participating in the Census of Agriculture is one gift Arizona producers can give themselves and their local communities this holiday season" added Manheimer. "It's a valuable investment into the future and well-being of agriculture and to the local communities here in Arizona."

For more information about the Census, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call toll-free (888) 4AG-STAT or (888) 424-7828. The Census is your voice, your future, and your responsibility.



2007 CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

## SECC UPDATE – YOU HELPED!

By Anna Pfender

As this year's campaign draws to a close, the ADA SECC Committee would like to thank all ADA employees for their generosity and support of the campaign. Whether it was through payroll deductions, cash contributions or participation in a special event or on-line raffle, department employees have once again proved to be some of the most giving people of all State employees! You most definitely have helped a lot of people.

Here's a recap of this year's SECC activities:

Blue Man Group Concert Tickets On-Line Raffle  
Phoenix Coyotes Tickets On-Line Raffle  
Clay Target Fun Shoot  
Pancake Breakfast  
ASU/UofA Football Challenge On-Line Raffle  
Holiday Shopping Spree 50/50 Raffle  
Sanders Port Money Jar  
San Simon Port Money Jar  
Yuma Port Money Jar

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the "Port Money Jars", our port employees simply display a large water cooler type jug for donations to a local SECC charity. When truckers come through the port they often drop in their spare change and dollars. The truckers and port employees are tremendously generous and so far this year the three money jars have raised over \$3350!

Many thanks also go out to this year's SECC Committee members: Carol Chancey, Malorie Lewis, Teressa Lopez, Beth Mania, Doug Marsh, Anna Pfender, David Pineda, Jolene Quillen, and Anna Wells. You help to keep the ADA SECC wheels turning all year long!



## It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!

December 13 was the day of the Annual Holiday Party! ADA employees poured in from all over the state to feast and catch up with friends. The goodies included: sweet potato casserole, smoked turkey, ham, scalloped potatoes, meatballs, coleslaw, bread, fried green tomatoes, and an abundance of desserts!

Before eating the wonderful food made by ADA employees, we got a special treat from some youngsters! The children of Anderson Elementary school dropped in to set the mood by singing some Christmas carols! Thanks to Dr. Hunt and his wife, who is the principal at Anderson, for taking the time to set up this great event!

During the luncheon, Director Don Butler issued awards for years of service; ranging from 5 years to 30 years. Congratulations to all those who received awards and thank you for all of your hard work over the years!

After the employees had their fill of food and desserts, the Department of Revenue Christmas carolers visited, and gave a stellar concert! They delighted us with "Somebody Snitched on Me," "All I want For Christmas," and their own rendition of "The 12 Days of Christmas;" complete with chimichangas, margaritas, javelinas, tumbleweeds, and the Phoenix Suns!



*Anderson Elementary Choir graces the Department with their Christmas carols*

## 50/50 SECC Raffle

Just the facts:

- The winner of the raffle was: Richard Roberts who won \$323!
- The other 50% of the money collected went to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, Southeast Arizona Food Bank, and Yuma Community Food Bank
- Raffle ticket buyers won many other great prizes
- Thank you for everyone who participated in the 50/50 raffle!



*Richard Roberts, a C,F&V Inspector was among many lucky Nogales employees who won prizes through the 50/50 raffle*



## Thank you for your Service to Our State!

The Holidays are the perfect time to reflect on how much all of your service means to our State, our agricultural community, and our citizens. Thank you all for your service and join us in recognizing a few of our employees who are celebrating milestones:

### 5 Years

Mary Moreno, Carlos Ramirez, Mike McMinn, Shelly Letcher, William Lamb, Kelley Downing, Rentzel Simpson, Stacie Archuleta, Billijo Pihlaja, Robert Estrella, Mike Wallace, Roberto Seldner, Ernesto Silva, Scott Knight, Iliana Ley, Marilyn Lutz, Krysti Gingrass, Daniel Chavez

### 10 Years

Jose Pujol, Kenneth Barlow, Flora Ferrington, Pat Wood, Ramon Acevedo, Vernita Sunn, Maria Lopez, Keith Miller, James Wilkerson, Terry Schultz, Philip Blair, Karin Streng, Helen Nasios

### 15 Years

Suzette Taylor  
Randall Porter

### 20 Years

Larry Szot  
Chris Baptista  
Doug Marsh

### 25 Years

Brad Cowan



*Chris Baptista, Entomologist at the ADA State Agriculture Lab celebrates 20 years of service!*



*In addition to celebrating 20 years of service, Doug Marsh also received an award for his service as SECC Chair*

### 30 Years

Brett Cameron  
Roger Ames



*Brett Cameron, Assistant Director for the Agricultural Consultation and Training Program is celebrating 30 years of State service this year. Clearly, he is as happy and jovial as the day he started at the Arizona Department of Agriculture over 30 years ago! Thank you for your service Brett.*

## Welcome Aboard: New Hires

### New Hire - Gabriel Ramirez Jr., C,F&V Inspector



My name is Gabriel Ramirez Jr. I was born on August 01, 1990 in Tucson, Az. I have lived in Nogales all my life. I graduated from High School on May 2007. I have one daughter and another one on the way. Before coming here, I worked for the ITC Company located at Mariposa Rd.

I am ready to start a good career and am especially interested in working for the Department of Agriculture.

My uncle works for The US, Customs Service and keeps me informed of all that goes on at the border. My aunt also worked there, but left after 9 years to raise her 3 small children. She highly recommends this job because it offers very good opportunities to progress in life, and if given the opportunity, I will do my very best and I will give it my all.

### New Hire - Maria Amis, C,F&V Inspector

Born in Sinaloa, Mexico on March 5, 1978 I was the fourth child of five. Life back then was fine, I never realized how quick my life was about to change. Suddenly my mom informed my baby sister and I that we were moving to the United States, to Nogales, AZ, where my oldest sister was too. Of course we were excited, but also nervous.

Getting through the first grade in Nogales was a bit of challenging, still with my mind set to learn English, get new friends, and trying to adjust to this new city, and totally different environment and customs. Before I knew it I found myself graduating of high school. When 9/11 happened, I was so angry, and signed up for the army. All I knew was that I wanted to help the country that adopted me and my family, and now my daughter's country. Basic Training was fine, I was sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, from there I stayed to do my Military Occupation Specialty another 9 weeks, and it was there where I met my husband now, and father of my second daughter. I am station at Fort Polk, Louisiana, but am eager to come back home to Nogales, If we can make it here we can make it anywhere else in the States and even back home.



### New Hire - Luis Soto, C,F&V Inspector



My name is Luis F. Soto. I was born May 29, 1951 in Nogales Arizona. I have lived in Nogales and Rio Rico all my life with the exception of having lived in Tucson Arizona for three years while attending college.

I attended A.J. Mitchell Elementary, Nogales Junior High and graduated from Nogales High School In 1969 then attended Durham Business College and Pima Community College.

I live in Rio Rico with my Wife of 12 years and have a nine-year-old son and also have 3 children from a previous marriage. My main work and training has been in quality control and quality assurance having attended various quality and leadership training seminars through the years however, I also have experience in shipping and receiving, inventory control, and product manufacture starting out as an operator, moved to inventory control, then to receiving inspection. After four years I was promoted to quality manager and earned the title of Director of Quality.

My hobbies are playing electric bass with a musical variety group and being a volunteer assistant baseball coach for my kid's little league team, I also, belong to a choir group at our church.



**New Hire - Monica Mada, C,F&V Inspector**

I am 30 years old, and have been married for 10 years. My husband works for a cement company driving cement trucks. I have been working as a school bus driver for nine years. I have four children. They all go to school and their grandmother picks them up. She the best baby sitter. I consider myself as a good human being who likes to help others, I like to keep myself busy. I like to be on time and am a hardworking person.

**New Hire - Luis De La Ossa, C,F&V Inspector**

My name is Luis De La Ossa, I was born on March 11, 1989 right here in Nogales, Arizona. I currently live with my father, mother, and brother. I attended Lincoln Elementary School from kindergarten till the fourth grade. I completed my fifth grade at Challenger Elementary School. Then I went to Desert Shadows Middle School, Finally I completed high school at Nogales High School, I recently graduated in May. I am currently working at ICT Group but am excited to start my work at the Department of Agriculture



**New Hire - Roberto Rojas, C,F&V Inspector**

My name is Roberto Rojas my day of birth is November, 11, 1988. What I like to do for fun is play sports and go out with my friends. I consider myself a hard working person and always fighting for a better future. I been working since I was fifteen part time in- the produce industries where I learned how to be a hard worker. I also attended two of my high school years a program at Nogales High School called JROTC (Air Force Junior ROTC), where I learned how to become a good citizen and a good soldier. I graduated high school in 2007. I consider a true and honest person.

**New Hire - Maria Calderon, C,F&V Inspector**

My name is Maria Calderon and am 33 years old. I am a Nogales Arizona resident. I am married, and have 3 children - One of whom is 10 ,another 7, and 4 all boys. I have a good baby sister who is always there, that way I was able to work any shift. My husband works for Food City supermarket , he has been there for 14 years as a Meat Cutter. I worked with mentally ill individuals and consider myself to be very patient and like to help others in any way I can

